

REMARKS

This Response to a Final Office Action having a mailing date of December 28, 2006 is being filed along with a request for continued examination (RCE). Claims 1-40 are pending. Claim 13 has been canceled. Claims 1, 14, 25, 38 and 39 have been amended.

The applicants have amended claims 1, 14, 25, 38 and 39 to substantially incorporate the features recited in claim 13 and the features recited on page 11, line 26 of the applicants' specification. The applicants have amended the claims to overcome the prior art in the manner suggested by the examiner on page 21, lines 14-16. The prior art does not suggest or disclose all of the features recited in the claims as currently amended. For at least this reason claims 1-40 are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the documents of record, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that any issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issue(s) and advance the case to grant.

Respectfully submitted,

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